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[FPA and Town Hall Dinner for Prime Minister of Pakistan, New York, May 8]

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Prime Minister, Begum Sahiba, Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is a privilege to be with you this evening and to share this platform with our distinguished visitors. I do not need to assure the Prime Minister and the Begum Liaquat again--for I am sure that they have learned it in Washington--how delighted we all are that they could accept the President's invitation to visit the United States and how welcome they are in this country.

For those of us who are professionally concerned in foreign affairs, there is a particular interest and satisfaction in the opportunity to meet personally with the Prime Minister of Pakistan. Why is this? It is because in the contacts and dealings between our own Government and the Government of Pakistan today we have the unique opportunity of creating from the beginning a new international relationship--a relationship between great peoples whose feelings toward each other are not burdened by any unhappy relics of the past, by any bitter memories or misunderstandings, by any rivalries or jealousies or frictions. We have here an opportunity which does not often come to nations: an opportunity to shape a new international relationship, to shape it in such a way as to avoid those things which have troubled relations between nations in the past, to make it well-founded and solid structure, a structure designed for the future.

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It may seem at first glance as though, of the two of us, it were only our friends in Pakistan who have the opportunity and the necessity to create a foreign policy and a system of international relationships from the ground up, and in the strict sense this is true. Yet the changes which we in this country have experienced in our world environment and in the demands which it places upon us within recent years are such that it is not too much to say that we too have in many respects had to begin at the bottom as though we were a new country and to create these things for ourselves out of our own best judgment and against a very shallow and brief background of experience. The changes brought about in world society by the two world wars and the period between them left us suddenly in a position, after the termination of hostilities five years ago, so different from that to which we were accustomed that it was in a sense like being born anew into a new world of reality.

One of the hardest of our problems, and one which I think is without precedent in world history, has been the tremendous disparity, partly temporary and partly also of a long term nature, between our own great economic strength and the difficulties which many other people were experiencing in the economic field. There was a great problem as to what the proper relationship should be between a country such as our own and other free countries who were in an entirely different position. This involved for us heavy problems of wisdom and discretion in the application of our own strength and in our willingness to participate in the solution

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of world problems. We are only now beginning to become generally aware of the delicacy of this relationship between ourselves and other peoples and of the dangers which it harbors. We are coming to learn that there is no special form of assistance which is not also a form of responsibility; that every special relationship we create with another country is not just a fact in itself but also a precedent for the future in the minds of our own people as well as in the minds of people elsewhere; that whenever we offer a reason as to why something should be done in the case of one country we must also have reasons why it should not be done in the case of fifty others. We know now that we must think not only about the psychological repercussions of the beginning of any program of special collaboration but also about the repercussions of its termination.

In short, we are becoming wiser and more balanced in our thinking about these matters, and are beginning to realize that if we are to play our part in the world effectively, we must do so with great prudence and restraint and observe the utmost care not to enter into relationships which might become the subjects of misunderstandings either here or in the partner-country or elsewhere, or which we could not be sure of carrying through to a conclusion satisfactory to all concerned. This has no particular application to our relations with Pakistan. I mention it because it is so important a part of our attempt to find a correct and constructive relation with our world environment in general, and because we must ask our friends to understand

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the complexities of our situation and to refrain from expecting us to do things which we cannot do, not just in our bilateral relations with them, but in the general exercise of our responsibilities as a world power.

You will note I say our friends must not expect us to do things which we cannot do. It is no less important that they should not expect us to be things which we cannot be. You, Mr. Prime Minister, are soon to have an opportunity to get a closer glimpse of this country of ours about which so much is spoken that is favorable, but perhaps more that is unfavorable, in the lands beyond our borders. We are happy that you are to have this opportunity. We know that many sides of our life still have an unfinished aspect, that they are in a process of change and development, and are not universally pleasing or readily comprehensible. There is much about our society which many of us feel could be and should be improved. But we are convinced that whoever looks deeply and without prejudice at our people and their institutions will understand that here, as elsewhere, there is a reason for everything, and a reason entitled to respect. It is this respect for the origins of our civilization and for the magnitude of our American experiment which we seek from others: not sentimental enthusiasm or imitation.

In general, we do not believe that a sound and fruitful international relationship demands a great intimacy or identity of taste in such matters as the customs and habit of domestic life. We can conceive that others might not want to live as we live, and vice

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vice versa. We think that what is required is only that one nation should respect the privacy of another nation in these matters-and by privacy I mean its right to pursue its customs and its beliefs without criticism or interference from outside, as long as these things do not impinge themselves in unfortunate ways on the international community.

We are prepared to judge our friends by their conduct in their relations with us and to be judged in that way ourselves. With these things in mind, we see no reason why we should not be able to develop with the people of Pakistan, for whom there are no feelings in this country other than ones of deep friendship and the most fervent good wishes for a successful and glorious national future, a relationship so happy and so fruitful as to constitute an example in this international community which is searching so desperately for stability and peace.

The Prime Minister may be assured that in the effort to establish this relationship he will have our loyal and competent support.

We know that his visit is designed to contribute, and has already contributed, to this end, and we are grateful to him for taking the trouble to make it.

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